



**County of Los Angeles  
Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
Economic Resiliency Task Force  
Themes from Conversations with Sector Leads**

**Overview:**

This memo documents the major themes that emerged from individual conversations with Task Force leads over the past week. The conversations were intended to orient the Task Force leads to the process and to understand their perspectives on economic recovery for their respective Sectors. The tone of the conversations was uniformly positive, and members expressed a desire to move quickly toward recommendations. The themes are organized by the topics covered in the conversations.

**Themes:**

**Topic 1: What feedback do you have on the Roadmap to Recovery framework presented by the Department of Public Health and on the Task Force process?**

- Economic Data: Task force members desire more baseline economic data on their Sector and on the projected impact of COVID-19 on the economy of the County of Los Angeles.
- Comparative Information: Members want to learn more about the experiences of other countries and of other states and jurisdictions in reopening their economies.
- Consistency: Members are concerned about different authorities (state, county, city) issuing different or conflicting guidelines for reopening.
- Structure: Members want greater clarity on what is expected from them and their Work Groups and by when.

**Topic 2: What are the major issues, challenges, and barriers to reopening your Sector?**

- Assurance: The fundamental issue for each Sector is how to assure customers and employees that it is safe to return.
- Guidance: Each Sector wants more specific guidance on infection control and other measures needed to safely reopen. They also want greater clarity for their Sector on the criteria needed to move from stage-to-stage.
- Dependencies: Successful reopening in a given Sector may rely on reopening in other areas. For example, without childcare or public transportation, many workers may not be able to return to their jobs. Similarly, small businesses in college towns may not come back until the universities can open.
- Compliance: Getting customers and employees to change habits and comply with social distancing, masking, and other infection control policies will be challenging. Failure to ensure compliance may create liabilities for employers.

- Financial distress: Many small businesses and non-profits risk running out of cash soon. Fast relief is needed to keep them from closing down altogether. Seasonal industries (sports, universities, etc.) will be in a similar position if they “lose” another season or academic year.
- Disparities and vulnerabilities: Minority populations, older people, and people with pre-existing conditions are at elevated risk from COVID-19. How do we incorporate the disparate impact of the pandemic into our reopening plans?

**Topic 3: What opportunities do you see emerging during the pandemic that we can build on going forward?**

- Technology: Telecommuting, telemedicine, virtual reality and other technologies that were slow to gain acceptance have been given a big boost by the pandemic. Sectors that have historically been slow adopters of technology such as healthcare and education are embracing new tools and approaches.
- Reform: New opportunities for reform are opening as long-standing social problems are pushed to the fore. New forms of public-private partnerships will arise because the problems can’t be addressed by either Sector alone.
- New Forms: New ways of doing business are emerging such as, for example, hybrid classrooms and campuses, sporting events without fans and virtual religious services.

**Topic 4: What ideas would you like to make sure the Task Force considers?**

- The County should apply to host sports leagues (e.g. NBA) when games resume without fan attendance and work with Chief Medical Officers of major leagues on health standards.
- The County needs to support expanded access to testing and contact tracing.
- A revolving loan fund might help small businesses at risk of being unable to make rent payments.
- Clergy should be designated as essential workers.

**Topic 5: How long can your Sector survive under the current conditions?**

- Many organizations are at immediate risk with only two-to-four months of cash on hand.
- Other organizations can sustain for now but anticipate permanent damage to their businesses if things persist into 2021.
- Many Sectors are at risk of rapid consolidation as the less financially secure organizations fail or merge with larger and more secure organizations.